

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 4 through 10 with the following amended paragraph:

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial Number 60/115,011, filed on January 7, 1999, U.S. Provisional Application Serial Number 60/134,896, filed May 19, 1999 and U.S. Provisional Application Serial Number 60/157,872, filed October 6, 1999, and U.S. Patent Application entitled "Microphone Assembly for Hearing Aid With JFET Flip-Chip Buffer", ~~Attorney Docket No. 2506.1008005~~, filed ~~this date on January 6, 2000, now~~ U.S. Patent 6,366,678, the contents of each of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, line 25 through page 10, line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 4 illustrates an alternate hearing aid microphone assembly 100 (described in more detail in connection with Figs. 22 and 23). The assembly 100 is disposed at a proximal end of an enclosure 408 for a disposable hearing aid 400. The microphone including the ~~housing 101~~ <sup>a1</sup> housing 101, diaphragm assembly 103/105, and a back-end PCB 106 is shown to be about 2 - 3 mm in longitudinal length "L". The shorter the microphone assembly 100 is, the better for purposes of wearing by a user. The microphone housing 101 occupies a substantial portion of the diameter adjacent the faceplate 406. A flex circuit (not shown) may be used to couple the amplified output of the microphone from the PCB components 109 to a receiver 402 at the distal end of the hearing aid 400. A stepped battery 404 is provided between the microphone and the receiver/speaker end 407. Since the hearing aid 400 is disposable, the battery 404 may be permanently connected to the circuit elements and does not need to be accessed. The need to access the battery is a disadvantage. In prior art devices, an access door was required on the hearing aid faceplate 406 at the proximal end of the enclosure 408 of the hearing aid 400. Traditionally, the access door would be located where the faceplate 406 of the molded shell-like enclosure 408 containing the hearing aid components is located. The battery access door is

normally located on the faceplate since it is a surface not in contact with the ear canal, thereby minimizing ingress of contaminants and potential irritation. In the prior art non-disposable hearing aids, both components i.e., door and microphone, would have to share the same space on the faceplate. The diaphragm for the microphone would, therefore, be substantially smaller than the faceplate.